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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/608,383	WARD, MATTHEW	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Hargobind S. Sawhney	2875	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--
 All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the RCE and amendment filed on November 4, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-23 and 25-49.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>1/13/2006</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

1. The Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and the amendment filed on November 4, 2005 have been entered. Accordingly:

- Claims 1, 20 and 28 have been amended;
- New claims 48 and 49 have been added; and
- Claim 24 has been cancelled.

2. On January 13, 2006, the examiner and the attorney, Mr. Joseph P. O'Polley, had a telephone conversation, wherein the amended independent claims 1, 20 and 28; and newly added independent claims 48 and 49 were discussed. The examiner suggested the following:

Claim 1 (amended) , line 4, " a light guide " should be rephrased as -- an edge-lit light guide--. Each of the other amended independent claims 20, 28 require the rephrasing similar to that suggested Claim 1.

Claim 48, line 3, " anumber of tiles in the frame, each tile " should be rephrased as -- a number of edge-lit tiles in the frame, each edge-lit tile--; and " a first surface " should be rephrased as --a side end surface --; and

Claim 49 (new), lines 1 and 2, "a light guide" should be rephrased as -- edge-lit light guide, each edge-lit picture elements --; and " a first surface " should be rephrased as --a side end surface --.

The above suggested rephrasing is correctly presented in the figures. Further, the above-indicated rephrasing would overcome prior art of record.

The examiner further informed Mr. O'Polley that with the combination the claimed subject matters with the above suggested corrective measures, the application could be placed in allowable condition.

In response, Mr. O'Polley authorized an Examiner's amendment requiring amendments of the claims as detailed in section 3 of this office action.

A copy of the interview summary is attached herewith.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with

Mr. Mr. Joseph P. O'Polley on January 13, 2006.

Claim 1 (amended), line 4, replace " a light guide "with -- an edge-lit light guide--;

Claim 20 (amended), line 3, replace " a light guide " with-- an edge-lit light guide--

;

Claim 28 (amended), line 2, delete " and including ";

Claim 28 (amended), line 2, replace " a light guide " with -- an edge-lit light guide-

-;

Claim 48 (new), lines 1 and 2, replace " a number of tiles in the frame, each tile " with – a number of edge-lit tiles in the frame, each edge-lit tile--; and replace " a first surface " with – a side end surface --; and

Claim 49 (new), lines 1 and 2, replace "a light guide" with – edge-lit light guide, each edge-lit picture elements --; and replace " a first surface " with – a side end surface --.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-23 and 25-49 are allowed.

The prior art of record, including Mochizuki (US Patent No.: 6,386,720 B1), does not show or suggest the applicant's invention as claimed. Specifically, the prior art of record does not disclose a display system combining:

- a group of lamps, each lamp including an edge-lit light guide using substantially total internal reflection to spread light emitted by different colored LEDs mounted to the side end surface the light guide as recited in each of the amended claims 1, 20 and 28; and newly added independent claims 48 and 49;
- a control unit using video signal to drive colors of the lamps as recited in each of the amended claims 1, 20 and 28; and newly added independent claims 48 and 49.

The above-indicated combination; a plurality of edge-lit guide lights each optically coupled to colored LEDs, and operationally coupled to a video-signal receiving controller, makes this invention unique.

Mochizuki ('720 B1) discloses a single assembly of an edge-lit light guide and LEDs, which are controlled by a controller for color- control of the LEDs, the controller taught by Mochizuki ('720 B1). Thus, Mochizuki ('720 B1) does not meet the limitations of any of the claims 1, 20, 28, 48 and 49.

Therefore, claims 1, 20, 28, 48 and 49 are allowed over prior art.

Claims 2-19 necessarily allowed because of its dependency on the allowed base Claim 1.

Claims 21-23 and 25-27 are necessarily allowed because of its dependency on the allowed base Claim 20.

Claims 29-47 are necessarily allowed because of its dependency on the allowed base Claim 28.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hargobind S Sawhney whose telephone number is 571 272 2380. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:15 - 2:45.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea can be reached on 571 272 2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

HSS
1/13/2006


ALI ALAVI
PRIMARY EXAMINER